

Message Text

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45

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 H-02 PA-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /070 R

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O 191642Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCUNC NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR POPS

SUBJECT: PANMUNJOM INCIDENT: PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:

QUOTE:

Q: HAVE WE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS REGARDING
THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT?

A: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF APPROPRIATE
GOVERNMENTS. WE CANNOT SPECIFY WHICH OR GO INTO THE NATURE
OF OUR COMMUNICATION.

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Q: HAS THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY SENT ANY PERSONAL MESSAGES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS?

A: NO.

Q: HOW LONG WILL WE REMAIN ON ALERT STATUS?

A: THAT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

Q: WHERE AND BY WHOM WAS THE DECISION TAKEN TO GO ON ALERT STATUS?

A: BY THE PRESIDENT FOLLOWING A WASAG MEETING CHAIRED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

Q: HOW CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION WAS THE PRESIDENT KEPT IN KANSAS CITY? DID THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT DISCUSS THE SITUATION PERSONALLY?

A: THE PRESIDENT WAS KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION AND DISCUSSED IT PERSONALLY WITH THE SECRETARY.

Q: HAVE WE NOTICED ANY INCREASED NORTH KOREAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEIR FORCES HAVE GONE INTO A WAR POSTURE?

A: I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO WHAT WE HAVE OBSERVED WITH REGARD TO THE MILITARY POSTURE OF THE NORTH KOREANS, BUT YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW THAT NORTH KOREA TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS ORDERED ITS ARMY AND MILITIA INTO FULL COMBAT READINESS.

Q: HAVE THE NORTH KOREANS ANNOUNCED THIS KIND OF WAR POSTURE STATUS BEFORE?

A: AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED SUCH AN ALERT.

Q: ANNOUNCEMENT ASIDE, HAS THE US EVER OBSERVED A MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSTURE EQUIVALENT TO WHAT THE NORTH KOREANS ARE NOW TAKING?

A: AS I HAVE JUST TOLD YOU, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DESCRIBE OUR OBSERVATIONS OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY POSTURE.

Q: HOW DO WE ASSESS THE GRAVITY OF THE PANMUNJOM

INCIDENT?

A: I WOULD JUST REITERATE WHAT WE SAID IN OUR OFFICIAL
STATEMENT YESTERDAY: THAT THE USG CONSIDERS THESE ACTS
OF MURDER A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.
FURTHER, WE VIEW THIS BRUTAL AND UNPROVOKED ASSAULT WITH
GRAVITY AND CONCERN, AND WE WARN THE NORTH KOREANS THAT
SUCH VIOLENT, BELLIGERENT ACTIONS CANNOT BE TOLERATED.
I WOULD REITERATE THAT NORTH KOREA MUST BEAR FULL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTIONS.
END QUOTE.
ROBINSON

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